



SRMT Kawennì:ios

Helping Build a Better Tomorrow

Seskeha / August 2008

In this Issue

The Best Days

Pages 2-3

Business Feature: Originals

Page 4

Peter Terrance, Jr. Joins Environment

Division

Page 5

Tribal Communications System

Page 10

HAVFD News:

Delivery of New Fire Trucks

Page 14

Honoring Frank Lacerenza

Page 15

Good Words of Welcome,

She:kon Akwesasronon,

As the newly elected Tribal Chief, I send to you my good wishes and hope everyone is in good health, mind and spirits.

Since my inauguration on July 1st, I have jumped right in to being involved with many interesting issues and concerns. I have been seeing first hand the many needs of our community by individuals, families, businesses and their collective interests.

Akwesasronon should applaud ourselves for the many good things we do as individuals, families, parents, business people and community. We take pride in our own and feature many accomplishments in this edition of our monthly newsletter. Savannah Thompson describes her Student Ambassador trip to New Zealand and Australia, the HAVFD honors Frank Lacerenza for his many years of dedicated service to the community and Originals Art Studio & Gallery is featured in the business section.

Many thanks to the staff of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe for the work and efforts they make to try and meet the many needs of the community. Of the many projects and programs being conducted at the Tribe, this issue features the new Tribal communications system, water sampling conducted by the Environment Division and a welcome to Peter Terrance, Jr. the new Solid Waste Management Program Assistant.

A final comment I would like to share with you is I hope to see more of you, community members, present at the Tribal monthly meetings. It is always good to have healthy dialogue and to work toward positive solutions.

St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Chief

Monica M. Jacobs



THE BEST DAYS OF MY LIFE

came in July of 2008, when I went on a trip of a lifetime when I traveled as a People to People Student Ambassador to New Zealand and Australia. The hardest part was the 15 hour flight from Los Angeles to Auckland, New Zealand that seemed like an eternity. While crossing the Pacific, people at home were celebrating the fourth of July. I actually didn't live July 4, 2008. I got on a plane July 3rd and, with the time difference, arrived on July 5th.

The moment we arrived I fell in love with the country. But the differences caught us off guard. First we got on our bus on the left side drove on the left side of the road! We were there in the middle of their winter and it snowed on the 2nd day.

JULY SNOW

We weren't excited, but it hadn't snowed in Rotorua in 15 years, so they closed roads and cancelled all flights. Go south and it gets colder in the southern hemisphere. But the hardest change was the time difference, being 16 hours ahead of home. I'd call home at 9 AM tomorrow and my mom talked to me at 5 PM today. I was living in the future!



I think America should follow the example of New Zealand because everything seems better there. They don't have nuclear plants; they chose not to be a nuclear nation. The atmosphere is laid back there; you can relax and still get things done. Also, they pay about \$2.44 a liter for gas (\$9.57 a gallon), and have small, fuel-efficient cars. The Kiwis (people of New Zealand) are the most friendly people I have ever met and are open to sharing their lifestyle. A big difference is the amazing relationship with indigenous people.

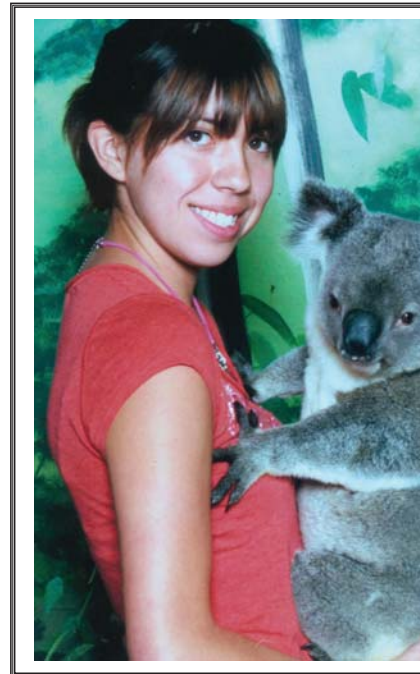
The Maoris and Native Americans have a similar life, living in villages much like our reservations and sharing many of our beliefs. They believe everything has a purpose and deserves respect. They make jade jewelry representing their culture and traditions. The Maoris have amazing stories of their ancestors and are proud of their heritage. It truly touched my heart.

As they performed songs and dances I could not believe my eyes. Their language is different; some letters are pronounced differently. We stayed at a village called Tewhakarewarewatangaoteopetauaawahiao, also known as Whahako.

Kiwis all know something about the Maori culture and some go to a Maori immersion school. The New Zealand All Blacks team is loved by the four million citizens of the country. Before every game they do the haka, a dance that the Maoris used to do to ward off enemies in battle. This shows how the relationship could be between immigrant Europeans and indigenous people. My leader said that she admired the way they live together and it's sad that the Americans seem to ruin Native culture instead of promoting it. But I agree, they live in harmony together and the Maoris are respected while our culture is being eroded and discrimination divides our country.

new adventures

On this trip, I had adventures that I never would have at home. I tried new foods and fell in love with some of them, mostly desserts. Pavlova is amazing! They argue about who made it, but in fact a New Zealand man created it in Australia and named it after the Russian ballerina Anna Pavlova. Vegemite is something you have to taste yourself





THE BEST Days

by Savannah
Thompson

because everyone has different opinions. Their candy is different: minties, pineapple lumps and tim-tams. At night I loved having a biscuit (cookie) and milo (kind of a hot chocolate, only better). I had mutton that was really good. Kiwi swirl, boysenberry and hokey pokey ice cream are all amazing.

In New Zealand we went up a mountain on a gondola and rode a luge down. It was

so fun I didn't want to leave. Also, we rappelled down a mountain! I was scared when leaning over the edge, but as soon as I was going, it was most amazing.

Then it was "Good-bye, Kiwis" – "Hello, Aussies!" On a three-hour plane ride and two-hour time difference we only wasted an hour. Australia was busy and Sydney was filled with people for World Youth Day. We climbed the Sydney Harbor Bridge and toured the Opera House, the most gorgeous building I've ever seen. We had a dinner cruise in Sydney Harbor which is amazing to see at night with all the city lights. In Cairns we spent the day at Great Barrier Reef! We snorkeled and saw the beautiful things, the coral and fish were so colorful.

AUSSIE WILDLIFE

We went to a wildlife sanctuary where we were photoed with koalas! They are the cutest things, but they stink a lot. We saw echidnas, bandicoots, dingoes, wombats, Tasmanian devils, snakes, crocodiles, wallabies and kangaroos. The roos were running around freely and we got to pet and feed them.

Our last day in Australia was the best day of my life! They took us to Surfers Paradise beach where we played games, had an Australian barbeque and

learned how to surf! We ate our last dinner at the Hard Rock Café, the saddest night of my life. The bonds that were created were about to be tested by distance. After our 17-18 hour flight to LA, a seven-hour layover, a seven-hour flight to Boston and a three-hour bus ride to Vermont, I was finally home at 2:30 am, totally jet-lagged!

COMMUNITY THANKS

All these adventures could not be possible without help from the tribal community! Thanks to the JOM Office who paid for the credits I earned. And thank you to my family who helped me to fund-raise. Thanks to all the people who donated and were involved in the fund-raisers. Mostly I thank my mom who pushed me toward my goal and believed in my ability to make my dreams come true. Thank you to her and her boyfriend for monthly trips to Vermont for informational meetings. I thank my father who helped me financially.

Elaine Whitcomb, Alice McDonald and Sub-Chief Stacey Adams wrote recommendation letters and I am so grateful. Another thanks to everyone in the community who backed me up and gave me the chance to spread my culture to other corners of the world.



NIawen KOWa

Business Feature - “Originals”

This month we welcome “ORIGINALS” a studio/gallery conveniently located at 480 State Route 37 next to MO Money Pawn Shop.

Proprietor Tami Bonaparte began her artistic journey about 15 years ago after raising her family and returning to Akwesasne from Syracuse, NY. Over the years, she completed a number of paintings which inspired her to open a gallery and make them available for sale to the public.

She enjoys painting and finds great therapeutic value through her painting and states that her work is inspired by her connection with the Creator. Painting has been very helpful to her as a means of getting through life’s many challenges.

As the name of the business suggests, Tami carries “Original” paintings, pottery, bead work, silver/turquoise and woodwork, each unique in their own way. The store features various local artists and their work including – Bear Fox, Bruce Phillips, Bruce Boots, Charlotte King, Helen Falcone, Laura Mitchell and others. Tami realized that she and other artists needed a gallery to reach the public and openly extends an invitation to other artists wishing to showcase their work in her gallery.

Many members of Tami’s family are also artists and are very supportive of her endeavor. As you drive by on Route 37, you might catch Tami working outside on various art pieces enjoying a hot summer day. She welcomes everyone to stop by to visit with her and other featured artists.

She hopes to have her Grand Opening sometime in September around Labor Day weekend and will have many of the artists and performers featured in the Gallery on site to meet with the public.

We wish her every success in her endeavor and encourage anyone interested in owning an “Original” to stop by and meet with her and the other artists. Tami can be reached at 613-575-1747 or 613-930-3341 (cell).

Businesses interested in being featured in this publication can contact the Office of Economic Development at 518-258-2272.





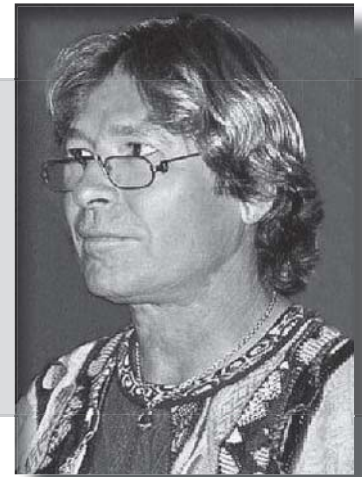
Peter Terrance, Jr.

Need a little “Sunshine on Your Shoulders” as you travel down one of your favorite “Country Roads?” One of the tribe’s newest employees Peter J. Terrance, looks like he may be able to supply it. Although we don’t know much about his musical skills, Peter has signed on to be the Tribe’s Solid Waste Assistant which is a program of the Environment Division.

Peter began his new duties in July 2008 and one of his primary responsibilities is taking care of waste lamp recycling for fluorescent bulbs and high intensity discharge (HID) bulbs which include tanning bed bulbs. These bulbs must be disposed of very carefully since many of them carry traces of mercury, a heavy metal contaminant. The amount of mercury contained in a single oral thermometer can pollute an entire lake.

He will also be doing a community assessment to see how solid waste is currently disposed of and what differences there are between now and 10 years ago when the tribe first implemented its solid waste management plan. “Every day is an education in the environment division,” he said, “I’m always learning something new.” His interest in this area started with the Spring Clean up this year which is how he got involved with this work by talking with Larry Thompson

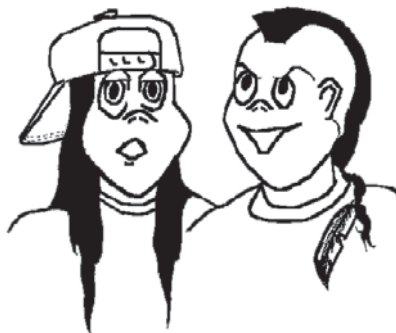
Environment Division Hires John Denver Look-Alike



The Real John Denver

and Russell Phillips. “I found roads I never knew existed on this Rez. I’ve always loved this place. Things are very different now, especially on Route 37. I used to hunt in some of these areas, but it’s gotten crowded.” When asked, what’s the best part about your job? He replied, “I like the people. It’s fun being out in the community and meeting people I haven’t known before. Everybody seems to know me now.” On Mondays, he works in the transfer station, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays he works part time at environment office, getting his projects started. On Saturdays, he collects trash on the truck throughout the community, “I’ve got a good crew to work with and it’s enjoyable.”

His parents were born here and his grandparents were life-long residents. Though he lived in Rochester and worked for a property management company there, Peter spent nine years here in St. Regis and spent time taking care of grandmother who passed away at age 101. He likes to snowmobile and generally likes outdoor activities. Peter said that he used to do a lot of hunting and fishing, but works a lot and doesn’t have as much time any more. He truly understands the importance of his job and of the Environment Division, “We’ve got to protect our Mother Earth -- without her we’re nothing. People have to realize that.”



Kwis & Tiio Tidbits

JOBS

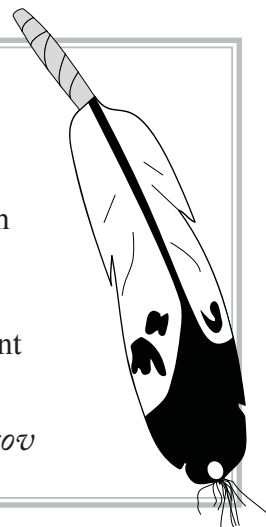
Habilitation Aide/Direct Support Staff - Family Support & IRA Programs

Qualified Health Professional - IHS, Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Program

WIC Clerk - IHS, Women, Infants & Children

HCBS Waiver Supervisor - Human Services, Disabilities Services Department

Complete job descriptions are online at: www.srmt-nsn.gov



NEW FACES



Heather Lauzon
Robin Logan

IHS - Let's Get Healthy
Early Childhood Dev

Nutritionist
Infant Teacher

Summer Clerical, Maintenance & Recreation Workers

Amber Arquette
Nathan Bero
Alison Cooke
Brandon Gambill
Zachery Herne
Ronald LaFrance, III
Aubrey Phillips
Kristen Pyke
Elizabeth Smith

Kenkiokwine Barnes
Jeremy Cole
Christopher Cree
Kaitlyn Graffis
Derek Hopps
Conway Leaf
Cassandra Phillips
Michael J. Rourke
Jessica Tarbell

Dwight Bero, Jr.
Angus J. Cook
Haley Cree
Nicolas Hartzig
Shoshone Ireland
Kashtin Millett
Peter Porter
Sierra Rourke
Kirsten Thompson

SRMT KAWENNÌ:IOS



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ON THE ROAD



Chief Jim Ransom traveled to Albany on July 9th to attend an Environmental Justice Interagency Taskforce meeting.

Chief Monica Jacobs attended the Tribal Head Start Consultation Meeting in Seattle, Washington on July 30th.

CALENDAR

Seskeha/August

23rd - Tribal Election for Sub-Chief

Seskehko:wa/September

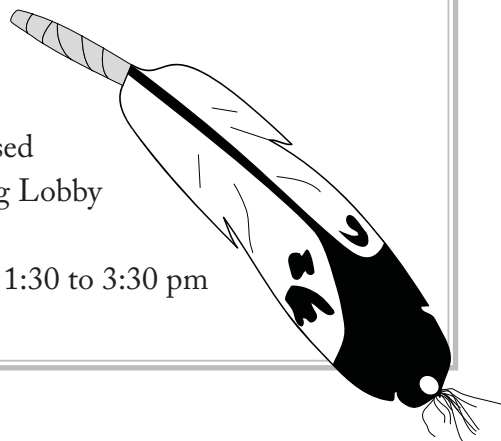
1st - Labor Day - All Tribal Offices and Transfer Station Closed

6th - Tribal Monthly Meeting - 10 am - Community Building Lobby

6th & 7th - Akwesasne Pow Wow - Anowarako:wa Arena

9th - Social Security Administration at Tribal Clerk's Office - 1:30 to 3:30 pm

12th - Disability Awareness Day - St. Regis Recreation



GIVING BACK



Funeral Donations - 6 Families	\$ 3,000.00
Medical / Hardship Assistance - 4 recipients	1,399.66
July Fireworks Display	4,500.00
Summer Concert Series - Ft. Covington	500.00
Alcoholics Anonymous Annual Picnic - Hall Rental	100.00
Pamoja Intl Cultural Exchange Conference Sponsorship for 5 Youth	2,625.00
Native American Dance & Music Festival Sponsorship for Carrie Hill	250.00
2008 Akwesasne Storm Midget Lacrosse Team	500.00
Sponsorship to attend Horse Shows for Daughter Oakes	250.00
Akwesasne Detachment #566 Marine Corp League Golf hole sponsorship	300.00
Sarah Lee Skidders Medical Expenses Golf hole sponsorship	300.00
2008 North Country Women's Summer Soccer League	500.00

SPECIAL ELECTION FOR SUB-CHIEF

Candidates for the position of Sub-Chief, 3 year term are: Pam Brown, Brendan White, Hollis White, Agatha Thompson, and Wade James McDonald.

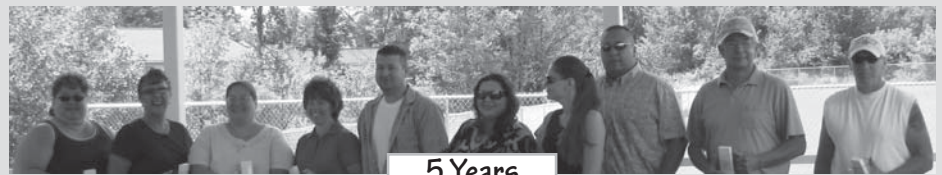
The Special Election will be held on Saturday, August 23, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Tribal Community Building. Absentee ballots will be accepted until Noon on August 23rd. All Tribal members planning to vote in this election are reminded to bring their tribal enrollment cards. For any questions, please call the Tribal Clerk's Office at (518) 358-2272.

Eligible tribal voters are encouraged to participate in the nomination and election processes of the duly-elected and federally recognized St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.

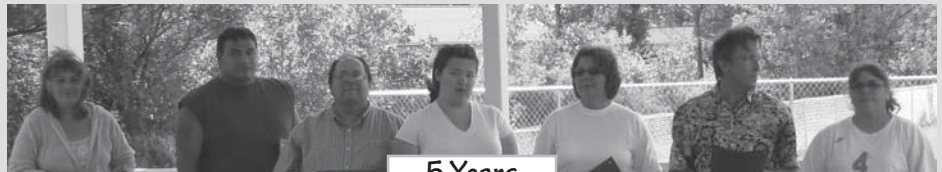
SRMT Annual Employee Recognition Day

The Tribe's annual Employee Recognition Day was held on Friday, July 25, 2008. The festivities were held at the new playground constructed by St. Regis Mohawk Tribe employees across from the Seniors building on Route 37. Approximately 350 employees and their families were in attendance for games, food and awards. The annual employee/family softball tournament was won by the Environment Team.

It was a great success!!



5 Years



5 Years



10 Years



15 Years



20 Years



Softball Champions



25 Years



30 Years

Graduate Class Offered

Relationships Between Schools and Families

By Rod Cook

St. Lawrence University is offering this graduate level course on Tuesdays from 4:15 to 7:15 pm beginning after Labor Day.

The course material is appropriate for students who are studying counseling, general studies and school administration programs.

This course will explore different family systems that teachers and administrators face when forming relationships the parents or guardians of students in the public schools, and it will examine strategies needed to build successful relationships with the parents or guardians of a diverse student body.

First, students will conduct an in-depth analysis of different kinds of modern family systems encountered in schools.

Second, students will develop effective conflict resolution skills to counteract disputes that may arise between families and schools.

Finally, students will discuss proper strategies and techniques for improving relationships between different types of families and the schools, and they will explore the partnerships that can be formed if the resolution of conflict is successful.

Please contact Rod Cook at the Higher Education Office, 518-358-2272 ext. 215 for more information or to register.

To all of our college students, have a good semester and achieve greatness BY ATTENDING ALL YOUR CLASSES. Don't be afraid to get involved, ask to get involved.

Good luck from the Higher Education Office.

TRIBE ON PATH TO CREATING A TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE

Feasibility Study Paves the Way for Tribal Communications System

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The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe recently commissioned a comprehensive feasibility study for developing its own telecommunications company. The study was conducted over a ten-month period by the Four Horizons Development Company, a Native-owned firm who found that a Tribal telecommunications company is both feasible and essential. The system would be carried on a state-of-the-art fiber optics network.

The Tribe has long pursued plans to diversify its economy and attain self-sufficiency by asserting control over community infrastructure. The study shows that a state-of-the-art telecommunications system is an essential element for a strong tribal economy.

“A Tribal telecommunications company will create jobs and stimulate economic development,” said Tribal Chief Barbara A. Lazore. A Tribal telecommunications system will provide access the Internet and e-mails, enhance community teaching and learning, build new language and

cultural preservation tools, develop new skill sets for workers, improve community ties, build new bridges to the global market, meet public safety needs and support remote medical services. It will also provide tools to manage governmental services, including government accounting and reporting. The project is expected to create about thirty to forty new jobs.

“We’d like every home and business in the community to have access to a fiber optic system,” said Tribal Chief Monica M. Jacobs. “Right now we have no high-speed internet service. A Tribal telecommunications company would fill that need.”

The Tribe currently pays about \$300,000 per year to outside communications



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“Building a Tribal broadband capacity and telecommunications network allows the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to shape its own future by meeting community priorities.”

-- Tribal Chief James W. Ransom

providers. A tribal telecommunications system will keep these fees in the tribal economy and strengthen the Tribe's autonomy and sovereignty. Chief Lazore said "Keeping those dollars here in the community is important."

Only eight Tribes have established telecom companies on their reservations. After forming their own telecom company, over 98 percent of the Mescalero Apache community have phone service and broadband access today. In 1990, less than 10 percent of the community even had phone service. "The Mescalero Apache and the seven other tribes that have established telecommunications companies show this is achievable with the right plan" said Chief Ransom. "We are working toward the same goal of establishing the telecommunications company as a limited liability corporation that is self-sustaining."



The corporation will need to borrow nearly \$25 million for the project, but the risk and liability will be entirely the corporation's responsibility, not the Tribe's. The Tribe will guarantee the start-up costs of the telecommunications company, but costs can be recouped through public financing from the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loan program. RUS loans have low interest rates and a long pay-back schedule – up to twenty-five years. Seven of the eight tribal telecommunications systems were funded by the RUS. "Another prime benefit of becoming a regulated telecommunications company is

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"It will take almost two years to build this system and we have many regulatory and other challenges. However, the benefits to the community far outweigh the difficulties of building the system."

-- Tribal Chief Barbara A. Lazore

.....

that an eligible telecommunications carrier, or E.T.C., can gain access to a \$7 billion Universal Service Fund that will subsidize the telecommunications company's revenues" added Chief Ransom.

"Building a telecommunications company will be a challenging task. We will make sure the community is aware of each step of the process as we proceed," concluded Chief Jacobs. "A special community meeting will be scheduled in the coming weeks to present the feasibility study."

New Park Takes Shape By Jeff Lauzon

A big thanks to those who helped build the park south of the St. Regis Mohawk School. Things began to happen 5 years ago. While calling for price quotes for a personal project in Rooseveltown, my calls led to Ronald Lauzon's Construction Company. We also talked about the "Park Fund," an idea from nine years before, but never matured due to lack of funds. Ronald made an excellent "two-for-one offer." For example, two loads of sand to Rooseveltown meant four loads of sand to the park.

Thanks to these Businesses:

- ✓ Ronald Lauzon Construction (518) 358-9715. For the excellent two-for-one deal, the laser level, torches, and picking up and placing of the 10ft. nets. You got the ball rolling!
- ✓ Garrow's Construction (518) 358-4641. For matching the "two for one," for torches, a welder, a tamper and top soil.
- ✓ Massena Metal (315) 769-0241. 50% off all metal products
- ✓ AHH Harris (315) 764-0241. 50% off concrete buggy
- ✓ Home Depot (315) 764-9930
- ✓ Massena Plumbing Supply (315) 769-9029. 10% discount
- ✓ Smith's True Value of Ft. Covington (518) 358-2714. For beating prices by 20% and personally paying the \$120 delivery fee for concrete blocks.
- ✓ Kim's Construction (518) 358-4609. For free re-bar and welding columns.
- ✓ Swamp's automotive (518) 358-3020. For cutting re-bar and welding columns.
- ✓ Hutchins's Construction (518) 483-8296. For two steel backboards w/rims, anchor plates, decking, plywood, roofing, two whirly-birds and a power truelle
- ✓ Shaft's Bar (518) 358-6122. Two complete bleachers
- ✓ Nelson Jock. Three steel door frames
- ✓ Crest Haven Precast (518) 483-4754. Delivery and placement of septic tank.
- ✓ Grant Ready Mix (613) 932-6571. Beat prices by 25%.
- ✓ Tootsies Bar. Septic tank.

Thanks to these Workers:

Darren George	Darrel George	Reno Lauzon	Kaitlyn Lauzon
Johnathan Hathaway	Danny Jacobs	Lorne Clute	Wayne "Munchkin" Bigtree
Ryan Barnes	Kyle Barnes	Nathan Barnes	Evan White
Derek Herne	Bennet "Bunny" King	Gerald Russell	Louie Thomas
Louie John Jacobs	Eugene Tarbell	Bradley Tarbell	Adam Bigtree
William Lauzon	Wayne Stalin	Mitch Square	Ronny White
Joyce Leaf	Bobbi Jo Lauzon	Connie Tarbell	Buddy Tarbell
Bobby Laffin	Bradley Lazore	Trevor Swamp	Chaney Lauzon
Vince Lashomb	Moses Middleson	Chris Merrill	Randy Ferney

Thanks for these Cash Donations:

Bradley Family of Hogsburg	\$1000	Jackson Family of Tarbell Road	\$ 500
Jacobs Family of Raquette Point	\$1400	Peter's Family of Snyc	\$ 500
Herne Family of Frogtown	\$ 400	Oakes Family of Frogtown	\$ 500
Tooties Park Fund	\$1570	Thompson Family of Hogsburg	\$1000
Peter's Family of Snyc	\$1000	Tarbell Family of Raquette Point	\$ 500
Ward Family of Frogtown	\$ 600	LaFrance family of Snyc	\$1450
Binette Family of Frogtown	\$ 100	Lauzon Family of Frogtown	\$4281

Turtle Talk - Environment

Swimming Safety in Our Rivers

By Tony David



The summer months are about cookouts, spending time with family, and of course swimming. The safety of swimming in Akwesasne is an ongoing project of the Tribe's Water Resources Program. This article provides general information about the health risks to swimmers and recommendations for swim safety.

What are the health risks?

The main risk to swimmers of all ages is through ingestion of river water containing pathogenic bacteria—symptoms can include headaches, vomiting, and fever. Of course, any ingestion of untreated water can be harmful and is not recommended, but water containing fewer pathogens is less likely to make you sick should water be accidentally swallowed. Other health risks includes infections of the eyes, ear, nose and throat, but these are less common. For the general public skin contact with water-borne pathogens is not a risk at the levels found in our rivers. However, persons with open wounds should be extra cautious. When in doubt, ask your doctor if you need to take additional precautions.

What bathing areas were sampled?

The Water Resources Program will continue to sample throughout the summer three bathing areas in Akwesasne: 1) State Route 37 bridge (Raquette River), 2) a sandy beach on the southern shore of St Regis Island (St Lawrence River) and 3) the Cook's camp ground (St Regis River). The data will be published on the Environment Division's Website: www.srmtenv.org



When is it unsafe to swim?

In general, the Raquette and St Regis River bathing areas are safe. However, after large storms the levels of pathogens become elevated above the bathing criteria—meaning the risk to swimmers is moderate to high. This spike in pathogen levels lasts about two days. During this period the rivers are visibly cloudier than usual. As river flows and cloudiness returns to normal, so do the levels of pathogens. In contrast, the beach on St Regis Island is consistently well below the SRMT bathing criteria for swimming safety of 126 cfu/ 100ml of E. coli.

Where do the pathogens come from?

There are many sources of pollution that contribute to unsafe swimming conditions: untreated sewage, farm manure, and even wildlife. Between rains storms these wastes tend to remain in place. However, large storms will wash these wastes (containing pathogens) into the rivers. The Tribe is in talks with local universities to complete DNA analysis of these pathogens to determine their origin. From there further regulatory action can be taken.

What can we do to stay safe?

It's important to remember that pathogen levels are increased after big storms. It's best to use caution when allowing children to swim at these times. After a storm, when the river is noticeably cloudier than usual, people should look for alternatives to swimming in the Raquette and St Regis Rivers. Don't swim in areas where livestock have access to the river. Stay away from leaky septic systems (and report them to the Environment Division). And as always take great care not to ingest river water.

FIRE DEPARTMENT TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW FIRE TRUCKS

USDA Provides Grant and Tribe Assists with Funding

The Hogansburg-Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department (HAVFD) took delivery of a second new fire truck on Monday, July 28th. The truck is a Freightliner M2 112, two door cab, tandem rear axle, Cat C13, 415 horsepower diesel “super-tanker” with a 3,000 gallon water capacity. The fire department initially took delivery of another new truck in June on June 18, 2008. Designated as

said fire chief Norman Peters. “The addition of this new fire truck increases our capacity to meet emergency needs as the community continues to grow.” A fully involved house fire takes about 25,000 gallons of water to extinguish.

The purchase of this new equipment was made possible through a \$453,680 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Community Facilities Programs. This USDA branch administers programs to develop essential



Engine 91, the truck went into service on Saturday, June 28th. The first truck has a 1,200 gallon tank, a 1,500 gallon per minute pump and features integral hydraulic lines for rescue tools (Jaws of Life) used to extricate car accident victims. The first new truck replaces the old Engine 91 that has been in service since 1978. Both trucks were purchased from VRS sales of Round Lake, New York and were built by Toyne, Inc., of Breda Iowa.

These pieces of equipment allow the fire department to fight fires in areas that have no local community water supply. “Since much of the Mohawk Community is rural, being able to carry our own water supply to the site is very important,”

community facilities for public use in rural areas. The HAVFD was able to get a grant and loan package to purchase two new trucks with a minimal out-of-pocket expense to the department. The cost of the two trucks was \$628,500. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is increasing its annual contribution to cover the \$181,000 loan taken out by the department for the purchase and to provide for additional fire-fighting equipment.

Sub-Chief Ron LaFrance was instrumental in preparing the successful USDA grant application. Tribal Chiefs James Ransom, Barbara Lazore and Monica Jacobs were present for the dedication of the new truck, along with USDA representatives Brian Murray, Area Director and Renee L. Hotte, Area Specialist.

Frank Lacerenza

By Adrian McDonald

Frank Lacerenza joined the Hogansburg Akwesasne Volunteer Fire Department in the sixties after moving here from New York City to teach at Salmon River Central School. Frank quickly became heavily involved in the fire department and took on leadership roles.

Frank was elected Fire Chief in the 1982 and went on to serve until 2005: a remarkable 23 years. Even more remarkable that Frank was, at times, the only non-native member of the fire department. People would ask why a non-native was in charge of the fire department and the quick answer was, "He's good at it!"

Frank firmly believes in training and that showed during his tenure. A well-trained fire department is much easier to lead. Since the HAVFD is the most northern fire district in Franklin County it was necessary to make sure training was offered nearby. Frank became active in Franklin County by being the Franklin County Fire Coordinator in charge of training for many years.

Frank has seen a lot during his time as Chief, some good times and some bad times. He was in charge of the fire department during the 1980's when a large number of terrible car accidents occurred, the 1990 crisis and the Great Ice Storm of 1998 in which he was injured on the line. He was also Chief when the new Fire Station Number One was officially opened in July, 2004, coinciding with the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the HAVFD. The new station was a by-product of the Ice Storm.

Frank lives just inside HAVFD's fire district with his wife Mary. We used to joke that had he built his house on the other side of the road he would have been Chief of the neighboring department

for 23 years instead of ours. Frank is still in the fire department after more than forty years and can still be seen at fire calls and heard on the radio during siren check. He has been there so long he saw the first third generation fire fighter enter the HAVFD while he was Chief.

Frank retired from the Salmon River Central School district in the nineties after thirty years of teaching Physical Education. You would think Frank would slow down, but Frank was encouraged to get involved in the justice system. Frank ran for and became a Judge for the town of Bombay. As Judge, he has been known to marry a lot of local couples and he is also the person people see when they've stepped over the legal line. He claims he gets more grief for the former than the latter. This is an elected position and he must be good at that, too, since he's been re-elected twice.

It isn't very often someone comes along and gets as involved in this community as much as Frank Lacerenza. Akwesasne should tip its hat to this guy from New York City who came all this way to become such an outstanding member of this community.

***We thank
you Frank,
for all
your hard
work and
continuing
dedication.***

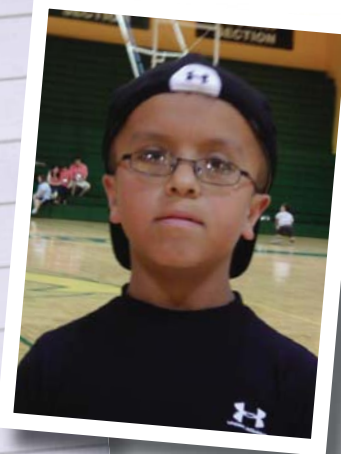


To: St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Donations Committee
Thank you for your support on behalf of my son and myself.

The Little People's Conference in Detroit was an experience my son and I (especially my son) will never forget. There were about 1,500 little people from around the country. Ronnie made friends from coast to coast. DJs held dances every night for all ages sometimes until 1:30 am. Ronnie and pals organized a basketball team so they could play together at Wayne State and they played soccer at East Michigan University. Even movie stars showed up. The Little People, Big World Roloff family and Martin "Marty" Klebba who acted with Johnny Depp in all of the Pirates of the Caribbean movies also attended the conference.

Marty & Zach Roloff had their own teams of basketball and soccer. They played the older men at the conference. All teams young and old were extremely competitive. There were no high flying dunks or soccer kicks. The big guys didn't have anything over these guys. They hit the floor or ground and were up in a sec ready to keep moving. They are ready to compete in sports and in the world.

Ron Jacobs, Jr. and Ron Jacobs, Sr.



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
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